1. This play is based on an event that took place in 1991 in Brooklyn. After a Jewish man ran over a seven year old black boy, a group of young black men stabbed another Jewish man to death for retribution. After this, there was rioting for another four days. Deavere Smith conducted interviews concerning this event after it transpired. The play is her reciting excerpts from these interviews
2. I believe the intrusion is when the black men stab the Jewish men and kill him. The Jewish people believe that the black kid was killed by an unlucky accident and that the stabbing was unjustified. The black people saw that the driver was drunk, and were reasonably outraged that this man was not punished, so they stabbed the other Jewish men. The two groups disagreement caused the riots.
3. After the black child was run over by the drunk Jewish man, some black people nearby beat him up, but do not really come close to killing him. However, the ambulance that arrives to the scene is a private ambulance owned by the Jewish community to care for Jewish people only. The ambulance takes the drunk man and leaves the black child to die. This is one of the main reasons why the people were so angry and ended up stabbing the other Jewish man.
4. Who was morally wrong in the situation? The black men involved in the stabbing or the drunk Jewish man who ran over the child? It seems to me as both are wrong (two wrongs don’t make a right). However, if the justice would have been served initially to the drunk driver, the stabbing would have never happened.
5. The “My Brother’s Blood” segment was particularly powerful to me because the acting was so intense and energetic. I also found it interesting how the actress connected the injustice to this conflict to representing the backwardness of the society we live in as a whole. It put the situation of this as evidence of the large amount of senseless violence that occurs in our country every day.
6. Racism

Answering violence with more violence

Alcoholism

Inequality in the criminal justice system

Religion

Antisemitism

1. I found the costumes of Al Sharpton and the snobby Jewish people who were interviewed to be particularly amusing. I was impressed with Smith’s ability to effectively imitate both jewish and black people with the clever use of costumes and a large variety of accents. The footage of the actual event helped to keep the realness of the event in the forefront, and reminded the viewer that this event, while it may seem farfetched, actually happened (and happened quite recently for that matter.).